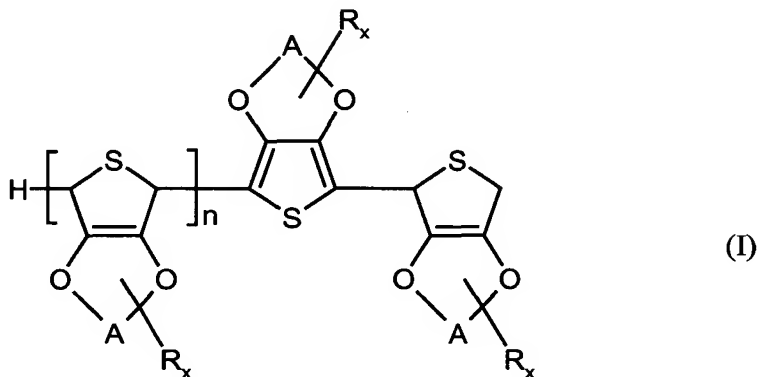


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Compounds of the general formula (I), characterized in that



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A is an optionally substituted C_1 - C_4 -alkylene radical,

10

R is one or more identical or different, linear or branched, optionally substituted C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C_5 - C_{12} -cycloalkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C_6 - C_{14} -aryl radical(s), optionally substituted C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl radical(s) or one or more hydroxyl radical(s),

15

x is an integer from 0 to 8 and

n is 0 or 1.

2. Compounds according to Claim 1, characterized in that

20

A is an optionally substituted C_2 - or C_3 -alkylene radical,

5 R is one or more identical or different, linear or branched, optionally substituted C₁-C₁₈-alkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C₅-C₁₂-cycloalkyl radical(s), optionally substituted C₆-C₁₄-aryl radical(s), optionally substituted C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkyl radical(s) or a hydroxyl radical,

 x is an integer from 0 to 6 and

10 n is 0 or 1.

3. Compounds according to Claim 1, characterized in that

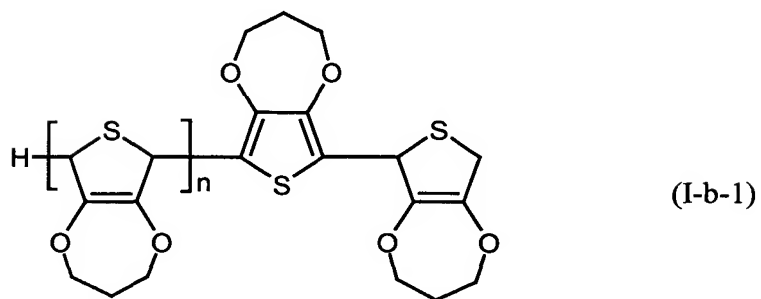
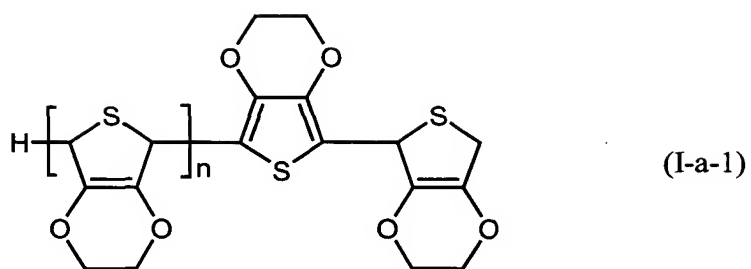
 A is an optionally substituted C₂- or C₃-alkylene radical,

15 R is a linear or branched, optionally substituted C₁-C₁₄-alkyl radical, an optionally substituted C₁-C₂-hydroxyalkyl radical or a hydroxyl radical,

 x is 0 or 1 and

20 n is 0 or 1.

4. Compounds according to Claim 1, characterized in that they have a structure of the general formulae (I-a-1) or (I-b-1),

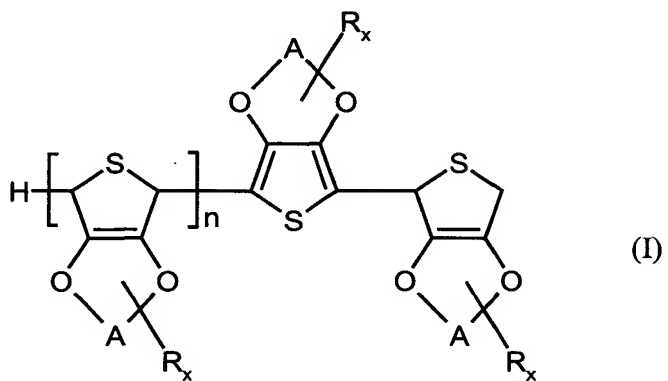


where

5

n is 0 or 1.

5. Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (I)

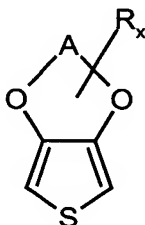


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where

A, R, x and n are each as defined in Claim 1,

comprising reacting compounds of the general formula (II),



(II)

5

where

A, R and x are each as defined in Claim 1,

10

with each other in the presence of Lewis acids and/or protic acids as catalyst.

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6. Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (I) according to Claim 5, characterized in that the catalysts used are non-oxidizing Lewis acids.

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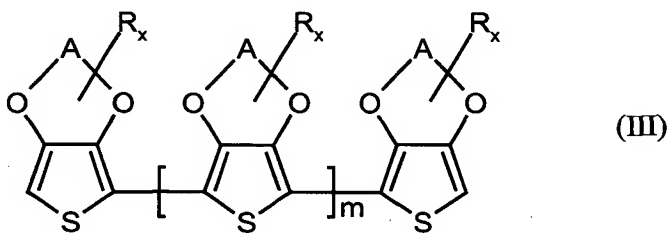
7. Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (I) according to Claim 6, characterized in that the catalysts used are Lewis acids selected from the group of the boron trihalides and aluminium trihalides, phosphorus trihalides, titanium tetrahalides or zirconium tetrahalides, tin(IV) halides, arsenic halides and antimony halides, tantalum pentahalides and zinc halides.

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8. Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (I) according to Claim 7, characterized in that the catalysts used are Lewis acids selected

from the group of boron trifluoride, antimony pentachloride, titanium tetrachloride and tin tetrachloride.

9. Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (I) according to Claim 5, characterized in that the catalysts used are protic acids selected from the group of the sulphonic or carboxylic acids and superacids.
10. Process for preparing compounds of the general formula (I) according to Claim 9, characterized in that the catalyst used is p-toluenesulphonic acid, methanesulphonic acid, camphor-10-sulphonic acid or trifluoroacetic acid.
11. A process for preparing neutral or cationic polythiophenes comprising providing the compounds of the general formula (I).
12. Process for preparing neutral or cationic polythiophenes of the general formula (III)



where

A, R and x are each defined in Claim 1 and

m is an integer from 2 to 200,

comprising chemically or electrochemically, oxidatively polymerizing compounds of the general formula (I) according to Claim 1.

13. A process for producing parts of electrical or electronic components
5 comprising providing the compounds of the general formula (I) according to Claim 1.
14. A process for producing a part of an electrical or electronic component
10 comprising providing the compounds of the general formula (III) which have been prepared by a process according to Claim 12.
15. The process of Claim 14 wherein the part is a cathode or a capacitor.